

Serial No. 10/731,558
60446-251; 03ZFM014/018

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-13. (CANCELLED)

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of controlling a centrifugal clutch assembly comprising the steps of:

- a) monitoring a vehicle operating input;
- b) monitoring a vehicle operating output;
- c) detecting a fault condition responsive to monitored operating outputs being outside of a desired range relative to the monitored operating inputs; and
- d) disengaging transmission of torque through a driveline by opening the centrifugal clutch assembly responsive to said detected fault condition.

15. (CANCELLED)

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in ~~claim 15~~ claim 14, wherein said centrifugal clutch assembly ~~is a centrifugal clutch comprising~~ comprises a plurality of weights movable radially outward responsive to rotation to begin actuation of the centrifugal clutch assembly, and said step d) further comprises overriding said plurality of weights to open said centrifugal clutch assembly.

17. (WITHDRAWN) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the driveline comprises a second clutch assembly, and said step d) comprises opening said second clutch assembly.

18. (ORIGINAL) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein one of said inputs comprises a throttle position.

19. (ORIGINAL) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein one of said inputs comprises engine speed.

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20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein ~~one~~ of said inputs comprises brake pedal position.
21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein said output comprises ~~centrifugal~~ clutch assembly position.
22. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 16, wherein the plurality of weights are movable radially responsive to rotation of the centrifugal clutch assembly to move a pressure plate axially toward an engaged position and said step d) further comprises moving the pressure plate toward the open position independent of a radial position of the plurality of weights.
23. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein said step d) comprises engaging a sleeve to the pressure plate and moving the pressure plate from a clamped position to an open position.
24. (NEW) A method of controlling a centrifugal clutch assembly comprising the steps of:
- a) moving a pressure plate axially toward an engaged position responsive to radial movement of a plurality of weights caused by rotation of the centrifugal clutch assembly above a desired speed;
 - b) engaging at least one friction plate with the pressure plate to transmit torque to an output shaft; and
 - c) overriding engagement of the pressure plate and friction plate at a speed greater than or equal to the desired speed by moving the pressure plate axially away from the engaged position.

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25. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 24, including the step of monitoring a vehicle output with respect to a vehicle input and overriding engagement between the pressure plate and the friction plate responsive to the vehicle output being outside a desired range with respect to the vehicle input.
26. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 25, including the step of detecting a condition indicative of stalling of an engine that is driving the centrifugal clutch assembly and overriding engagement to prevent the engine from stalling.
27. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 24, including moving the pressure plate axially away from the engaged position with a sleeve movable axially along an axis of rotation.
28. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 24, including moving the pressure plate axially toward an engaged position at a speed below the desired speed such that the pressure plate engages the friction disk to transmit torque at a speed below the desired speed that causes actuation by radial movement of the plurality of weights.